

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicants originally submitted Claims 1-21 in the application. The Examiner has indicated that Claims 2-3, 6-7, 9-10, 13-14, 16-17, 20 and 21 are allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claims and intervening claims. (Examiner's Final Action, page 4). To expedite issuance and place the claims in a condition for allowance, the Applicants have amended Claims 1, 3, 6-8, 10, 13-15, 17 and 20-21. Additionally, the Applicants have canceled Claims 2, 9 and 16 and have added Claims 22-27. Accordingly, Claims 1, 3-8, 10-15 and 17-27 are pending in the application.

I. Rejection of Claims 1, 4-5, 8, 11-12, 15 and 18-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 4-5, 8, 11-12, 15 and 18-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,508,660 to Gersbach, *et al.* (Gersbach). The Examiner's rejection is now moot due to the amended Claims. Amended independent Claims 1, 8 and 15 include allowable subject matter and Claims 4-5, 11-12 and 18-19 depend thereon. Accordingly, Gersbach does not render Claims 1, 4-5, 8, 11-12, 15 and 18-19 unpatentable in view of Gersbach and the Applicants respectfully requests the Examiner withdraw the rejection and allow issuance thereof. Additionally, new Claims 22-23, 24-25 and 26-27 depend on Claims 3, 10 and 17, respectively, which include allowable subject matter. Therefore, new Claims 22-27 are allowable over the cited art.